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## Sorgo Department.

National Sugar Growers' Association.

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## That Sorghum-Lapping Fiend.

ED. RURAL WORLD: The question has been asked "What has become of that sorghum-lapping fiend of Bavaria, Kas?" Epithets and missiles are all that should not be encountered with ornaments. It would have been more euphonious to say Northern cane sirup tasting angel, but that would have been as insipid as corn sirup and would have dropped at the muzzle of the gun. This naked and bald-headed epithet traversed Illinois and Missouri and struck the target in Kansas. The epithet sorghum-lapping fiend is good, and its me. Colorado tramps begging through Kansas coined the epithet sorghum-lappers. They may say that the dominant political party, Col. Colman is a sorghum lapper. Prof. Wiley is a sorghum lapper, and I am a sorghum-lapping fiend. I have been busily engaged in tracing the effects of sorghum diet on the body and the mind. It is conceded that diet modifies character and force. The rice-eaters have a character of their own. The savage, swift and tireless, derives his qualities from the game he had pursued before. The roast beef of old England and John Bull are cause and effect. Any person who will restrict his diet to beer, krout and lamburger for a sufficient time, say two or three generations, will understand why the Dutch are Dutch. Any person can fill himself with potatoes and then seek the potatoes in Irish whiskey and will become for the time "Tipperary Irishman." Any person can swallow a few frogs and float the frogs in wine and can contribute to French literature. There are large frog-frogs in Jules Verne's writings, there are batrachians and amphibians in Hugo's writings. Sorghum is now influencing Kansas character and Kansas thought.

The general use of sorghum is recent, and it is rather soon to trace its effects on the body and the mind, but nowadays if one wishes to make original discoveries it is necessary to discover sorghum. It is true that the man who places a barrel of sorghum in his cellar influences the character of his children and of those yet unborn and the world will be a different world from what it would have been if he had never lived. As soon as completed, I hope to make a report on the "Results of Sorghum as Diet" which, I believe it is not vanity to say, will have as much value as the recent "Report of the Academy of Sciences on Sorghum." It would be a pleasure to discuss sorghum cadaver, and if I could find his brain, endeavor to determine whether its peculiar structure produced sorghum propensities, or whether sorghum tendencies caused its peculiar structure. I am not in the habit of waiting for opportunities to come to me and may manufacture a corpse for the purpose. It is said Indiana "stiffs" are much preferred by medical men. If the Commissioner of Agriculture would employ his experts in this way the country would get some good from the sorghum propensities, but it is said he is interested in Mexican products and reciprocity, and consequently antagonizes sorghum. If this is true he will of course refuse, and the only thing for sorghum men to do is to buy the Department of Agriculture from the Government and run it themselves.

If another war should occur between the United States and Mexico it is not impossible the Commissioner of Agriculture and his flint lock might be found on the Mexican side, in that case the purchase would be unnecessary. Sorghum has already had a marked influence on Kansas babies, they are not the same babies they used to be in the early times. I am a bachelor and am aware that I should speak cautiously about trifles of which I really know but little. I once came very near not being a bachelor, but she was ambitious. I was poor and she married wealth. He is now a government clerk with expensive habits and inadequate salary, and I am a sorghum-lapping fiend. Such are the reversals Time brings, but there is a difference and distinction between sorghum children and human children. As the differences increase, they may result in a new race, having new virtues, new vices, new ideas and new forces. I think Mr. Deming will agree with me, and with this reinforcement I will face any opposition which I would dare to tackle alone. A Kansas senator said, in the Senate chamber, the Democratic party had the foot and mouth disease, when he opened his mouth it put its foot in it. This idea could not have originated with a ribbon cane senator. It could only originate with a sorghum senator of a State which makes sorghum enough to eat such a senator and 300,000 Republican majority. This shows conclusively that sorghum originates ideas and influences thought.

A. A. D.  
Bavaria, Kans.

I have just finished swinging out a fine lot of nice light brown sugar on centrifugal made at the rate of 300 lbs. per day. My best melada made 6-1-2 pounds sugar per gallon. All who have seen it, pronounce it a grand success for Texas. My sugar was made from the Early Orange cane variety. Spring seems to be here; farming progressing rapidly. Fruit of all kinds all right yet.

Honey Grove, Texas, March 12th.

## From Nebraska.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: The article in RURAL of March 13th signed W. S., reflects my sentiments. I believe that the use of chemicals in the manufacture of sirup does more hurt than good. It is best made without them. I think the acid in it is what makes it more healthy than other sirups, and I find that in the new kinds of cane, we have but little acid, and if it is made right, it is good enough without the use of chemicals.

As to cool oil barrels, or any other hard wood, iron-hooped barrels, I find they do not give satisfaction because they leak.

## TESTING SEEDS.

The best way to test seeds is to count out a given number of grains and sprout them, by putting them in a dish, between two layers of cotton, and wetting some, keep near stove.

The best mill is the one that is stout enough to get out the juice. I think there is no principle of evaporation that exceeds the old reliable Cook, for the making of a light sirup, and we must make it light in color to sell it well. My advice is, get a good mill and evaporator, house the same, keep everything clean, work no bad cane, especially frozen filter juice well, reduce juice inside of thirty minutes, skim thoroughly, strain sirup while hot, cool quick in small bowl, barrel after nearly cold, in soft wood barrels, cypress is the best; then if you don't have good sirup let me know.

L. F. G.  
Hastings, Neb., March 15, 1884.

## Cleaning Evaporators.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: I would say to Mr. P. E., of Fairville, Mo., that I clean my copper evaporator with sulphuric acid. Wash the pan clean, then add enough of the acid to wet the pan well where the sediment of lime is deposited. Let it stand a few minutes, then heat with some dry straw, or hog gasse, and while hot rub well with a stiff brush, then wash with water. If the first application don't clean it all off, apply the second time, until clean, and wash well, as the acid is poison, and avoid the fumes while burning. It can be obtained in any drug store.

Mr. H. F., of Kimball, Dakota—My portable and stationary furnace is composed of cast iron and boiler iron, with iron smoke-stack, front door and grates, stands on strong legs 6 in. in number, with damper and partition in center to throw the fire away from the sirup. The fire-place is walled up with brick on the inside, back 4-1-2 feet, then the furnace is filled with clay from the back wall to the damper, up within three inches of the top. Also a damper in the smoke-stack to regulate your fire. It has a strong draft stack, 18 feet high, 10-inch diameter. It is 14-1-2 feet long, and the pan is 12 feet long. I use a Cook Evaporator, and it can be made any length or width desired. I have never had a chance to test its capacity, as my crusher is small and I run it with horse-power and can't get juice enough. I have boiled 80 gallons in a day. I. A. Hedges' Bagasse Burner can be attached as easy as to any other furnace. I would advise "New Beginner" to keep a scrap book, and read the RURAL WORLD, and cut out all that is worth saving. I have been a sirup boiler for 27 years, and expect to continue. I wish some one that understands the diffusing process would be so kind as to publish it in the RURAL. A large crop of Northern sugar cane is anticipated here the coming season.

JOHN WEBB.  
Wayne Co., Ohio.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: I send \$1.50 to renew my subscription. I don't want to miss a number, as the Sorgo page has been interesting reading lately. Many thanks to Brother Anderson and others.

With your permission I would like to give a short notice that may be of service to very many.

There are many who are not prepared to buy special machinery for this purpose. I hire a Brown or a Barlow Rotary Planter, prefer the latter because I can see the seeds then take out the seed plates and fill them in the following manner: Whittle out as many pegs as there are holes in a plate, make the pegs about an inch long, and about as large round as I want the seed hole, say 1-4 of an inch, according to amount of seed you wish to drop in a hill. Make the pegs a little tapering. Now make some little spot of ground smooth and firm, and lay a seed plate down wrong side up. Set a peg in the center of each hole. Have a ladle with melted metal. I use solder and lead or bismuth and lead mixed; pour in the metal around each peg until filled a very little more than full. I then take the plate to some convenient iron, the square end of a haw tooth will answer nicely, and with a riveting hammer, fit the filling snugly around the edges. If necessary, smooth off with a knife or file. If the holes are too small, and I prefer to make them a little smaller than they will finally be, dress out with a penknife blade. Be sure that the holes are a little larger on the bottom side of plate. I have done this the past two seasons, and have had the finest stand of cane I ever had. When I cultivate the first time, I have a boy follow with a steel-tooth rake. A smart boy will keep up.

I don't wish to be a bird of ill omen, but I certainly think that if this season is unfavorable for sorghum, many a sorghumite will curse his luck, and mills will be as they were a few years back, worth their weight in old iron. Just think of Kansas alone, credited in 1883 with 4-1-2 gallons for every man, woman and child in the State, and a prospect of that being doubled in 1884.

I think the motto should be quality not quantity.  
H. V. N.  
Tonganoxie, Kansas.

## Sorghum Sugar—Profits of Raising Cane, Etc.

In reply to a letter from Smith, Gifford & Co., of Nashville, Tenn., Geo. W. Gere, Esq., of the Champagne Sugar Works, said:

"Your favor of the 7th inst. is at hand. The amount of sirup which you may expect will be produced from a ton of cane by the Weber & Scovell process depends of course on the per cent. of the extraction and quality of the juice.

From all that I have heard of your climate, soil and analysis of cane, I am decidedly of the opinion that one year with another, for a term of ten or more years, you may safely calculate that at the proper period of maturity for sugar making the juice will show by analysis at least 10-1-2 per cent. of cane sugar and 2-1-3 per cent. of other sugars, and not to exceed 1-1-2 per cent. of solids not water. By the two mill system and hot water bath between the mills, we, with ordinary good work, succeed in obtaining at least 60 per cent. of the weight of net cane in juice. By net cane I mean stripped and topped cane.

With juice of that quality and 60 per cent. of extraction, you can rely upon a product of from seventy to seventy-five pounds of sugar and from seven to seven and a half gallons of sirup per ton, both being marketable articles, ready and fit for retail trade.

It might be well to mention in this connection that by no other process, except the Weber & Scovell process, is a marketable article of sugar made from sorghum cane.

Yes, I have taken considerable trouble to ascertain the effect of the sorghum crop on the soil. The letters and statements in the hands of J. A. Field, of St. Louis, Treasurer of the National Cane-growers' Association; but I can give you concisely the substance of the information received upon that subject.

I have reports from persons who have grown from two to seven successive crops of sorghum cane on the same tract of ground without the use of fertilizers or manures, and their universal testimony is, that it is the easiest and least injurious crop on the soil that they have ever raised. This it leaves the soil in better condition for other crops than any other crop they have ever raised.

Do these statements conflict at all with the theory upon the same subject as described in your issue of the 13th inst. I think not. Take net cane and substantially 90 per cent thereof is sugar and water, the sugars of different kinds all come from the atmosphere and do not in the slightest degree come from the soil. Certainly no one would think that the water in the cane and juice exhausts the soil. Therefore, of the weight thereof comes from or draws upon the soil.

From these two sources of information, together with my own experience, there is no doubt, in my mind, that the sorghum crop draws, as little upon the soil as any crop that can be grown.

At a distance of an average of two miles from the factory there is no doubt, in my mind, that the cane and juice delivered, is a more profitable crop to farmers than corn. And for the factory work with cane of the average quality, as above stated, with ordinary prudence in the management, with a plant that has had 24 hours of the cane in the mill, the profits per ton should be from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per ton, counting the selling price of the sugar and sirup at the lowest price conceivable.

## Sorghum Culture in Franklin, Tenn.

As an indication of the interest developed in sorghum culture, a charter has been granted to E. G. Bennett, Y. M. Rizer, L. J. Turley, W. W. Smith, and R. B. Hays, all of Franklin. Under the name of the "Franklin Sugar and Sirup Mills," they will begin the manufacture of sorghum products as soon as arrangements can be completed, which will be in a short time. The building and machinery will require the outlay of \$30,000, and the capacity of the mill will use the product of nearly 1,000 acres. Three auxiliary sirup mills are in contemplation. The officers of the new company are: Y. M. Rizer, president; J. B. Lillie, vice president; L. J. Turley, secretary, treasurer and general manager.

## Diffusion Process and Sorghum.

In extracting sugar from beet the diffusion process is employed. The beets are cut in small slices and then placed in a steam-tight tank, and the sugar extracted by steam and hot water. By this process it is claimed that more sugar is extracted than can be secured by pressing the pulp. It is proposed to use this process in the manufacture of the sorghum sugar. It is stated that a solid sugar, when as pure crystallized sugar or in some combination easily decomposed or dissolved in water. It is claimed that the microscope has shown crystals of sugar in the cells of the sorghum; if this is true it cannot be extracted by mere pressure, but it can be recovered by the diffusion process, as thirteen pounds of crystallized sugar and six pounds of good sirup have been made from one hundred pounds of cane by this means.

From 25 to 35 per cent. more sugar is claimed to be secured by invention over the crushed cane system now in use, but whether the process is equally as profitable remains to be shown. We have seen it stated that the gums in the juice are not extracted by diffusion, but

this is a great mistake, for it was proved twenty years ago that the gums were more soluble than the sugar. On the contrary, we expect that getting rid of the gummy matters will be the chief drawback to the economical extraction of sugar by diffusion.—National Tribune.

## Sorgo Notes.

—The London Economist draws attention to the decline in the price of sugar, which is now 15 6d per cwt lower than last year at this time, notwithstanding the fact that the crops both in the East and West Indies are under the average. It finds the explanation in the exceptionally large yield of beet sugar on the continent, and the great pressure to sell in Germany. There has been a progressive increase in the beet crop since 1879-80, when it produced 1,453,929 tons of sugar. The yield of 1882-83 was 1,146,531 tons, and the estimate for 1883-4 is 2,240,000 tons.

SORGHUM CULTURE ABROAD.—The Hon. S. C. Kenney, of Newmarket, Minn., one day last month shipped 40,000 pounds (about 700 bushels) of Early Amber cane seed to Russia, where it had been purchased for spring planting in the province of Kriew. Efforts are also making to introduce sorghum culture in Turkistan, Asiatic Russia, and the Tropical Agricultural, published at Colombo, Ceylon, devotes space to the sorghum sugar industry of this country, and discusses the question of its profitable introduction into the tropics.

It appears that sorghum is making its way into other countries, and bids fair to become a valuable addition to the world's rural products.

—The amount of foreign molasses consumed in the United States during the year 1883 was 29,436,310 gallons, and of New Orleans molasses 18,966,755, making a total of 48,403,065 gallons of pure cane molasses, against 49,109,748 gallons in 1882, a decrease of 707,683 gallons. The average price of prime to choice New Orleans molasses in New York in 1883 was 53 7-8c per gallon, against 66 1-2c in 1882, and 52c in 1881. Of Porto Rico molasses the average price was 34 3/8c in 1883, 43 1-2c in 1882, and 43 3-4c in 1881.

The manufacture of glucose or corn sirup is an industry quite separate and distinct from the molasses trade, and yet the article is largely used, both as a substitute and adulterant for cane molasses. It is difficult to estimate the quantity produced, as manufacturers are unwilling to supply the necessary data, but some idea of the importance of the industry may be gathered from the fact that the value of the annual product is estimated at \$10,000,000.

—Of late sugar has been cheaper than ever before, and present prices are remarkable low, although Chicago whole-sale prices are 20c higher than a fraction of a cent within the past week. There is now some prospect of a check to the sugar production of Germany. It is calculated, at the present rate of tax and drawback, the loss to the German treasury upon exports of raw sugar is \$1,750,000 a year, or over \$8,500,000. It is now proposed to increase the tax and reduce the drawback to an extent that would bring the bounty upon exports paid by the treasury down to about \$300,000, or \$350,000 per annum. This would increase the cost to the foreign buyer by about 1-2c per lb. and would put an end to the unhealthy stimulus under which the German sugar production has been growing during the past eight years, in which their crop has risen from 300,000 tons to 925,000 tons. The abnormally low prices of sugar all over the world can be directly traced to the pressure to sell this great mass of sugar in Germany.

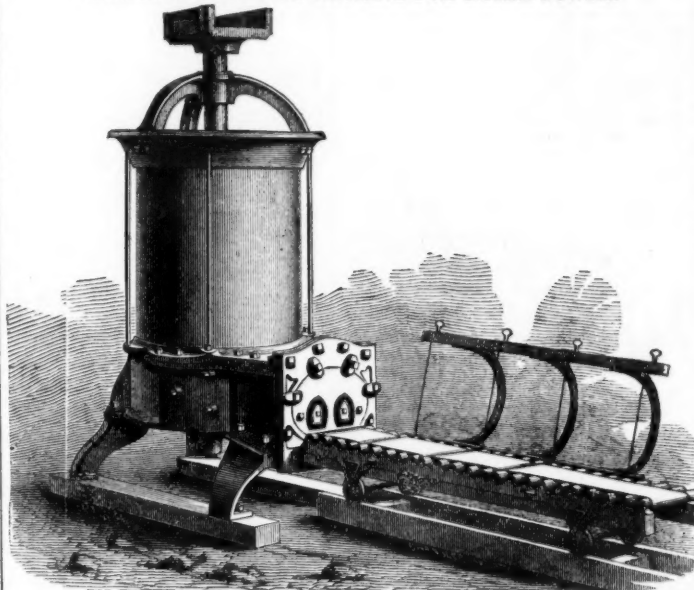
## Agricultural.

## Preparing Ground and Putting in Oats.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: As the season for putting in the oat crop is about here, I thought that perhaps a few thoughts gathered from fifteen years of practical experience in regard to this important crop might be of some interest to new beginners on the farm. My father, being a farmer, and now living on a well improved farm in Central Illinois, has had a chance to observe a few things: That a rotation of crops is essential to successful farming; that an early sown or planted crop stands the best chance to be a paying one; that ground intended for oats should be plowed in the fall, and soon as the ground is dry enough, sow your oats. (Two bushels and a half to the acre is the nearest correct one here in Central Illinois,) and thoroughly harrow the ground, covering all the grain; this leaves a fine seed bed; the oats come forward faster, make heavier and better oats, stand up better and are less liable to rust. Never plow oats under with a plow two or three inches deep, as it makes the crop late, and they never yield as well. When the ground is plowed the ground in the fall and want to put the oats on corn ground, first take the stalks off, then sow the oats, and take the harrow, and thoroughly pulverize the ground. The idea is to get them in shallow, with fine surface. R. B. H.

Seed corn may be made safe from wire-worms and other vermin by soaking it before planting in a mixture consisting of one pound of blue vitrol or sulphate of copper in a gallon of water. The solution should be lukewarm and the seed may soak a day or a day and a half. The poison will not only kill worms but it will also destroy any injurious fungus germs that may be on the grains. Care should be taken not to get any of the solution on the hands, as it makes sores.—Orange Co. Farmer.

## EUREKA DRAIN TILE MACHINE FOR HORSE POWER.



In embarking in the manufacture of Drain Tile, the first consideration is to procure good clay. No machine can produce good tile out of poor material. Therefore, a little time spent in the selection of clay will be amply repaid by subsequent saving in tile that might otherwise be lost. All efforts to use gravelly clay by screening it in the machine have heretofore proven to be but an annoyance and loss, and if clay free from gravel cannot be found, we advise the use of crushing rollers as being the only practical method of disposing of them; besides, the use of a crusher will repay the outlay in reducing the clods and putting the clay in condition for tempering. Having secured good clay, the next important matter is to select a machine, which leads to the question as to what constitutes a good tile machine. A good machine should be capable of making tile in paying quantities—tile that are well formed and straight; tile that will dry and burn without undue loss; tile that can be sold to men who know what tile should be. Poor tile can not be sold in competition with good ones and yield a profit, because it costs more to make poor ones than it does good ones. A machine for making tile should be simple in its construction in order to be durable, and to be durable it must be strong, well-made, convenient of access to its working parts, have easy and ready means of taking up all leakage caused by wear, and have sufficient capacity to make tile in paying quantities with the least expenditure of money, labor and power consistent with first-class work. The original cost of machinery is of small importance compared with its durability and the cost of repairs can only be computed by adding the loss caused by delay during a season, which may be so excessive as to consume the profit, or sufficient to have paid the difference in cost between a cheaply-constructed and a strong, well made machine. The capacity of a machine should be adapted to the wants of a neighborhood; that is to say, if a single-delivery machine, with its lesser

first cost and the advantage of being worked with one handless than a double-delivery machine, will supply all the tile that can be sold in a neighborhood, it certainly would be an injudicious investment to buy a double-delivery machine costing more money to start with, and increasing the running expenses by the employment of one or more additional men and an additional amount of power to drive it. And, on the contrary, if the demand for tile is unlimited, it would be unbusiness-like to undertake to supply that demand with machinery entirely inadequate for the business. And it would be the height of foolishness to buy a mill simply because it had two places for the tile to issue from, if it required three men to work it and produced no more tile than a single-delivery mill, which required but two men to work it. And yet such mills find purchasers. Our experience in manufacturing tile machinery dates back about sixteen years. This experience has brought us in contact with practical tile makers, and has been favorable to the development and perfection of useful devices and machinery for that purpose, to which we call attention in this circular, and the machines described on succeeding pages will be found to not only be of the best construction, material and workmanship, but to fill the various requirements in capacity, durability, etc., of first-class machines.

The Eureka Tile Machine of which the above is an illustration, is a radical departure in plan of construction and operation from any heretofore made and in our opinion has decided advantages over any other machine. It is equally well adapted to steam and horse power, the difference being only in the mode of gearing and the application of power. The purchase of a horse power-machine can therefore at any time have steam-gearing attached, and thus increase the capacity without having to purchase an entire new machine. For further particulars send for descriptive circular to Chandler & Taylor, Indianapolis, Ind.

## Small Farms—The Growing Hope.

—It is gratifying to know that farms in this country, while increasing in number, are diminishing in size. This is the tendency in all parts of the land. Old plantations are being broken up into several farms, rented usually, but sometimes bought by the freedmen who formerly cultivated them under compulsion. The division of large tracts is rapid on the Pacific Coast. Bought for speculation, in areas so large that fears of landlordism were excited in many quarters, and cultivated in part to realize taxes and interest while holding, they are kept only until sufficiently advanced to make a market at a long advance. The broad prairies of the Upper Wisconsin and Red River of the North are tempting inducements to capital. The bonanza farms serve well to lure new settlers, to swell prices, and by-and-by to fill the pockets of their owners by the sale, not of their wheat, but of their acres. Big farms are not always profitable in this country—perhaps not often profitable.

There is another sort of farms, the great cattle and sheep ranches, that threaten a worse monopoly than the great wheat farms. Without owning more than a few acres on some water-course, some ranches fence in thousands of acres of public land, excluding the pioneer with a small herd or flock. It is becoming a general practice, and Indiana has been combining companies, with bona-fide capital amounting to one, two and sometimes three million dollars. The controlling interest of many of these companies is held by foreigners, absentees who live in England and Scotland, and draw their income from America as from Ireland. The Secretary of the Interior has sounded the note of warfare upon the plunder and monopoly of the domain. The illegal fences should "go."

Do farmers realize the full meaning of the small-farm plan? It means schools, churches, society, culture in all directions. Monster farms mean a desert, isolation, barbarism. Small farms encourage good tillage, make large crops, high prices of land and property for all. Instead of four million farms in less than a half, the nation will be required. Available public lands are becoming scarce. When farms are no longer given away, and land-owners must divide, they will sell only at a strong advance on nominal rates. It is a good

time for the poor man to secure a foothold upon a convenient bit of soil, become a land speculator in a commendable way, and make a home for himself and his children before the time when the small crowd him to the wall of homelessness.

## Plant Shallow.

—I promised to call attention to Mr. Boekenogin's experience with regard to planting. He is quite certain that corn is planted the "proper depth," near all that is judged good will come up. Last spring, to test his theory, he planted the same seed at same time at different depths and noted the result. That which was planted on or near the top of the ground and covered slightly, almost every grain came up, while that put in deep as the planter deposits nearly all rotted. Since I was at Mr. B's last fall I have talked with several farmers on the subject and every one of them, though they have not experimented, believe that theory a correct one. I observed last spring also that Mr. C. C. Hardin, a thinking farmer of this community, planted almost his entire crop the old way and covered it with the hoe. I asked him why he did not use the planter. He replied, "the planter will not do these wet cold springs. I have been watching. The planter puts the corn too deep. While the ground is cold and is drenched every few days with rain the seed must be near enough the surface to feel all the sunshine we get, or it will surely die." I asked if his early planting came up satisfactorily. All right, almost every hill of it, but if same seed had been planted at the same time to line with the planter, would have been a failure. Mr. Boekenogin has also learned a fact about planting potatoes we have never heard or read before. He professes to have ascertained to a certainty that if potatoes are planted precisely four inches deep, they will give the greatest possible yield, and says the crop will decrease, comparatively, as they are planted above or below this depth. Few farmers have taken the pains to measure, plant seeds and note the outcome, but all seem to understand that much is learned in every department of life by experiment; and all ought to understand that it will not do for the tiller of the soil to linger longer in ignorance of the demands around him. He must brighten his wits, or the varied

changes in the season, the bug tribe, and wear of the soil will gormandize his labor.—Mrs. Mary E. Donley, in Iowa Register.

## Agricultural Notes.

A great many bones are wasted on every farm, which would make valuable fertilizing material, easily prepared for use. Procure an old pork or whisky barrel, and as bones accumulate, throw them in and cover them with unleached wood ashes. In the barrel stands in the weather, in a few months the bones will become friable, and easily converted into the best bone dust. If a quicker process is required, burn the bones and crush them.

—In buying fertilizers, says the New England Farmer, see that they are in a thoroughly fine and pulverulent condition. This is especially important with "bone" manures, in which the main source of phosphate acid is frequently in the form of ground South Carolina phosphate rock. The phosphoric acid in this form is quite as available as in the form of bone, provided the rock has been finely ground and thoroughly treated with acid. Most manufacturers appreciate the importance of this point, and make their goods as fine as possible.

—Though corn should not be planted until the ground is warm, there is an advantage in early plowing, partly to give opportunity for warming the seed bed. Some of the very best crops have been grown on fall-plowed land, with the manure spread on the surface during winter. The need for warmth in the seed bed makes a freshly turned furrow unsuitable for planting corn, though it is all the better for fertilizers or barley. If, on corn ground is plowed early, cultivation, to mellow the seed bed, should be continued until planting time.

The Boston Advertiser calls this the wire age. Sleeping, we repose on wire mattresses; eating, we take food stuffed through wire sieves; calling, we pull wires; traveling, we go by cable or electric railways over wire bridges, and are hoisted by elevators hung on wires; we send messages over telegraph or telephone wires, and are lighted on our way by electric light wires; from car windows we see miles of wire fences; our clocks are set by wires, our watches run by wires, our books are stitched with wires, our clothes hang by wires, and our ties managed by wires.

—The opening, by railroad, of Mexico to our country makes more interest in her capacity. The wheat-growing area of Mexico is embracing the entire country, say, from Pueblo nearly to Colima, about five hundred miles east and west, and from Southern Michoacan to Zacatecas, about 400 miles north and south. This table is broken by mountain ranges into a number of rich agricultural districts, adapted for the growing of wheat, namely, the Lerma Valley, roughly 200 by 16 miles; the Bajio (Northern Michoacan, Jalisco and Southern Guanajuato) 200 by 300 miles; Aguascalientes, 50 by 30 miles; the San Juis Potosi and Queretaro district, 150 by 30 miles. Total, say 52,000 square miles. Of this immense field of rich and arable land, one-third, it is believed, could be readily put into wheat with due regard to the other agricultural interests of the country.

—Experiments made by a few members of the Elmira Farmers' Club in the last three years seem to justify the conclusion that the best way to secure early and full setting of grasses. A single trial made by President McCann with six varieties in the autumn of 1882, he pronounced the most satisfactory seeding in his extended experience covering a long term of years. He found every foot of the ground completely occupied in the autumn of 1883 and all the grasses then standing went into the winter in fine condition. There is nothing new in this doctrine of seeding except as more varieties are embraced in the ordinary practice. Explanation of success may be found partly in the fact that soil unfitted for one kind may nourish and support another; thus when a mixture embracing many varieties is sown one or more varieties will flourish, and in this way the entire surface will be occupied. The mixtures sown by the members of the Club have been obtained from Mr. Daniel Batchelor, of Utica, who is an authority on grasses. He has studied their growth, their habits, their distinguishing traits, and as a consequence has acquired a degree of skill in mixing seeds not obtained by those whose sole interest is in selling. Of course the varieties may be found elsewhere and mixed to suit. The main point is to get so many kinds of seeds upon the soil that some one or more will take root and make that thick setting which is essential to permanent sod. All observing farmers recognize the fact that grass is the foundation of successful agriculture. Then the first requirement is to obtain success with grasses. This done the land becomes profitable for other uses because it is supplied with vegetable matter whenever the sod is turned under. Good sod is good manure, and in no other way can good manure in full supply be obtained so cheaply. This is a subject which should interest every farmer, and the time of year is favorable now for giving it full consideration. Timothy and clover, the common mixture, does not meet all the requirements whatever they may have done in the past. Under the system of cultivation employed by northern farmers the tendency is to deprivation of vegetable matter in the soil, but with thick and full seeding an immense amount of roots can be secured in the soil with a good catch of the seeds, and the good catch in turn is secured by an extended mixture of varieties.











## COLMAN'S RURAL WORLD

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR.  
BY NORMAN J. COLMAN  
PUBLISHED WEEKLY  
AT \$1.50 PER YEAR; OR EIGHT  
MONTHS \$1.00.

ADVERTISING: 40 cents per line of space; 100 lines for one month or long time advertisements.  
Address NORMAN J. COLMAN, Publisher  
500 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo.  
(Advertisers will find the RURAL WORLD one of the best advertising mediums of its class in the country. This is the uniform testimony of all who have given it a trial. Many of our largest advertising patrons have used it for more than a quarter of a century, which is the highest possible recommendation of its value as an advertising medium.)

## ADDRESSES.

Norman J. Colman has accepted invitations to deliver addresses at the following places and times:

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., April 4th, Practicality of Creameries in Missouri.

ROLLA, Mo., April 5th, on Missouri as Adapted to the Dairy and Creamery Business.

PATTE, Mo., April 12th, Missouri as Adapted to the Creamery Industry.

JACKSON, TENN., May 9th, before the West Tennessee Horticultural Society on "Sorghum Culture—Tennessee Can and Should Produce Her Own Sirup and Sugar."

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Mississippi, May 18th, Annual Address at Commencement Exercises of College.

OMAHA, Nebraska, Sep. 5th, Annual Address at the Nebraska State Fair.

R. P. GUSTIN, Bay City, Mich., has been made Vice-President of the American Berkshire Association for his State. This is a good appointment.

The Springfield Jersey Cattle Club sends an agent to the Eastern States next week, to purchase a car load of cows and heifers to supply the immediate demand for Jerseys at Springfield, Ill., and vicinity.

BARLEY and its cultivation is generally overlooked by the farmers of Missouri and Illinois, yet the receipts in St. Louis are steadily increasing each year, induced by good prices. Last year 2,800,798 bushels was sold here—nearly as to the brewers, who turned out with its aid 1,000,000 barrels of beer.

ST. LOUIS last year received twenty million bushels corn against fourteen and a half millions the previous year, but the city shows a big fall in the receipts of wheat as compared with those of 1882 when the city received twenty million bushels, and only fifteen millions in 1883. The shortage last year was owing entirely to the light crop in the territory tributary to this market.

Now a number of our Arkansas subscribers who reported their peaches all dead a month ago are anxious to recall or modify their statements. We are now assured that the fruit belt along the St. Louis Iron Mountain & Southern R. R., will have at least half a crop, and upon reflection and a recent examination of the fruit buds they are unanimous in declaring the late severe frost rather a blessing than a blasting or blighting visitation.

MR. G. B. BOTHWELL, of Breckenridge, Kansas, has a fine public shearing on his farm this year on the 10th of April, and advises us that all who are at liberty at shearing and to Mr. Bothwell. Now we have this to say to Mr. Bothwell, he has many sheep to shear, and his shearing will be worth seeing. The wool growers of the West will, he says, find something there worth looking at. He has 1100 rams for sale and 200 of these are registered Vermont Merinos. Isn't that good for Bro. Bothwell?

LAST year St. Louis received and disposed of one million dollars worth of green apples, as shown in our issue of March 20th. Half of this amount was credited to this State. It should have been added that this by no means represented the apple product of the State, as some of the best producing sections do not ship here, except on rare occasions. Kansas City, too, is a big apple market for a great many Missouri growers, while many of the principal orchards in this line in Iowa and the north-west come direct to this State for their supplies every year.

THROUGH a number of sources considerable information has been recently compiled relative to the condition of the winter wheat crop and future prospects. The results of the survey are very gratifying and the "prospects for at least a fair yield are good. The news had a most depressing influence at the leading grain centers, where the speculators were soon hammering down the prices (futures) and the market was very excitedly subsided—the market declining in a few days 8 to 9 cents a bushel—notably May wheat—or rather wheat for May delivery.

OUR horticultural friends who are constantly seeking distant markets for their products, and more especially southern fruit and vegetable shippers, will be interested in the following communication in our horticultural department, written by Mr. P. M. Kiely. Transportation is the all important question to many of these people and if the refrigerator cars can be had as cheaply as freight cars, there should be no question about testing them thoroughly when the experiment costs so little. When fresh beef killed in Texas or Colorado can be successfully shipped to New York, why cannot other commodities equally perishable?

ST. LOUIS has been losing its prestige for years as a tobacco market. The State is not producing as much of the weed as it did 6 to 8 years ago. The prices prevailing now, and for several years past, are higher, and why the supplies have not increased is difficult of explanation. A number of intelligent and experienced tobacco growers have been sent to the State to investigate its production and they have returned with the report that the best adapted to its production enlarged their fields devoted to it, and have made money, especially those parties who turned their attention to the Burley, the best variety ever introduced in the State. Missouri has produced in the last nine million pounds, when twenty millions could have been very profitably produced.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: I am requested by the President of the Wool Growers' Association to announce that the time of holding the annual convention of Wool Growers has been changed from May 7th, to May 19th, at the Grand Pacific Hotel at Chicago. Will you please so announce.

ALBERT CHAPMAN, Secretary Vermont Sheep Breeders Association, Middlebury, Vermont.

## A CREAMERY IN BELLEVILLE, ILL.

The editor of the RURAL WORLD, Norman J. Colman, and Col. R. F. Smiley, of the Southern Creamery Association, Holt & Hall, of Kansas City, Mo., proprietors, paid a visit to Belleville, Ill., last Saturday on the invitation of the St. Clair County Thoroughbred Stock Association, to talk to them on the creamery business. It was a busy time with the farmers, for the weather was fine and they anxious to get into the field with the plow as early as possible, still the large crowd-room was crowded with an intelligent and appreciative audience, and the speakers listened to with the closest attention.

Col. Colman had to get away by an early train, but engaged the attention of his audience for nearly an hour, speaking of dairy farming generally, and then of dairy farming in particular as adapted to our soil, grasses, climate, etc., etc., and their capacity for the production of a first-class article of merchantable butter that shall command the highest price in the market.

Col. R. F. Smiley had, of course, very detailed of the creamery business at finger ends, and held the attention of his audience very closely for over an hour. He pictured the butter from a thousand farms as displayed on the shelves of the country grocery, marked the price usually obtained for it, contrasted it with the product of the same cows brought to one central factory, handled in one way by skilled workmen at the requisite temperature and by the latest improved machinery, all made in one way by that machinery, salted, colored, packed and shipped to market in the best packages, and bringing at least twice the price, and giving the highest satisfaction.

He gave a brief historical sketch of the creamery as an institution of modern commerce, told how it originated with Mr. Stewart, of Iowa, some fourteen years ago, how at that time there was a general feeling of distrust of the dairy of the name, and certainly unsuitable in the East or any other market of the world, how the system grew until they now number from 1,500 to 2,000 in the Mississippi Valley, and are every day increasing. He presented facts and figures to show that, whereas then the farms of the West were heavily handicapped with mortgages for money borrowed from Eastern capitalists, these same farms are now in grass, needing much less capital and less of the interest of debt, and their owners making much more money than on the grain farming system.

Following his subject in logical and consecutive order, he referred to the well known fact that grain farming even on the Illinois river was not only making the soil poorer, but was also making it less productive. He said that grain farming could be, in very many cases, profitably dispensed with, and the land seeded down to grass for a series of years at least, and then grazed by the best milk cows to be had.

He then clearly showed that grain farming could be, in very many cases, profitably dispensed with, and the land seeded down to grass for a series of years at least, and then grazed by the best milk cows to be had.

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## LETTER FROM KANSAS.

COL. COLMAN: You grow older you grow wiser—as you grow older you grow wiser.

The RURAL WORLD is a credit to the Mississippi Valley, and of right should be encouraged. You preach and teach the true value of thorough breeding—as a matter of fact, a thoroughbred never grows old—you are a thoroughbred, and you may live forever.

The winter wheat in my section comes out of winter quarters in magnificent shape. It is at the present writing looking splendid—none killed—not even the heads.

As to fruit, I am afraid with the exception of apples and strawberries, that we are left—and left badly—but we are almost anything, if the wheat is good.

No cattle disease in Doniphan county, and hogs are generally healthy.

I have a splendid variety of fall wheat which I shall advertise in due season, all western farmers should have it.

Yours, THOS. HENSHALL, Doniphan Co., Kan.

## The Grandest of Arts and Sciences.

Of all the arts and sciences, agriculture is the grandest, the most indispensable to man, the most universal. What? Farming an art and a science? Truly so, when practiced as it ought to be, and as it is coming to be. Name me anything pertaining to the practice of art or science, which does not enter into that of agriculture somewhere or at some time. Why then has this, our so useful art and science, been held in such low esteem? Ignorance and neglect—these are the why. It is as though sculpture and painting were left to stone cutters; painting to sign painters; medicine to horse leeches and hair cutters; chemistry to soap boilers; astronomy to fortune tellers. Law once a science, has fallen into contempt by this neglect of society and its abandonment to ignorance. Statesmanship has become political wire pulling, and as an art and science has become lost. You may think this a joke. May be so, but it is a most sorry one.

But it is not true that all these fine arts, these glorious, star-eyed sciences, were once down in the mire, abandoned and despoiled, while only war and gallantry were callings for gentlemen?

It is not the mere hand labor that makes a thing so looked down on. I de-

ny this emphatically, for some arts and some sciences require hard hand labor, and that too, of the most filthy kind. It is the thought and care and skill required and given, to produce results useful to man, that have gradually taken medicine, sculpture, painting and astronomy, from their low places, and placed them highest in the scale. There is no art or science could hold its place against the neglect and carelessness to which agriculture has been abandoned. But a change is coming. Ever long in the course of Progress, the catastrophe happening, farming, yes Farming, (spelled with a big F) will stand highest of all the callings of man. Art and science have quietly been ministering to this result, almost unperceived by the world.

And we have not the remotest idea of the infinite scope agriculture is to take. Our duty is to move on in the order of the great law of development and assist in directing attention to this grandest of them, greater than any ever yet, "the sword had pleaded or the trumpet had proclaimed." And now, Mr. RURAL WORLD, not to flatter you and your fellow captains in this grandest division in the great army of progress, how much have you done for the people of your country by blinding the people to one or another of the fact leaders whose sole object is the mighty spoil which administering and making statistics, commonly called governing, has become. And how much you have to do! What a boundless field for labor! Already the mere literature of agriculture, which once consisted only of the yearly almanac, occupies many shelves. And the time is coming when he who is conversant with this literature will have a universal education. Nay more!

All the doctrines of morality will be contained therein. And it is to be hoped that the "monarchs of agriculture" will receive more and more attention. The man who knows and does his whole duty by his horse and his cattle, and all the dumb dependents does not need to study his duty toward his fellow man. And conversely, he who pretends to be a Christian or even a gentleman, and ill treats or neglects his horse, is a hypocrite and knave. On this subject alone how much can be well said. I was much struck by a remark from an exchange in your last week's issue, in which it was to the effect that these animals are much like human beings; mourn over neglect; "get melancholy in confinement; love vanity, flattery and little attentions. When you go home at night, see that your horse is comfortable, when you take a bite, give him one also." All that is so true. For our offenses against our animals alone, we deserve purgatory, at least.

HOUSTON, OREGON, Mo., March 23rd, 1884.

The consumption of hog meat in the United States is something wonderful to contemplate, and the figures inspire us with increased respect for that peculiar institution, the American stomach. The yearly slaughter of hogs in the United States is about 32,000,000, producing about 4,000,000,000 pounds of meat, of which about 1,000,000,000 pounds are sent abroad. This leaves at least 3,000,000,000 pounds to be consumed by a little over 50,000,000 people, an average of 60 pounds per year for each man, woman and child in Uncle Sam's family.

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scholar. It treats of the Farm, Crops, Stock, Garden, Orchard, Birds and Insects, Home, the Parlor and the Kitchen. Tells how to cook, how to be your own Doctor, how to build a house or barn, in fact it forms a library in itself. It is sold by subscription only to those who desire to secure an agency to solicit subscriptions for the book should apply at once to the publishers.

The Art Amateur for April gives attractive designs of passion flowers for screen embroidery and blackberries for panel painting, some interesting pages of Oriental diaper ornaments, a curious old German alphabet, and some striking designs for furniture panels and book covers. The book is the most complete and excellent illustrations of objects in the famous Castellan collection now being sold at Rome, the clever sketches of pictures in the exhibitions of the French Water Color Society and the Boston Paint and Clay Club and the interesting notes and examples of the work of J. A. Habert-Dry, one of the principal designers for L'Ancr. The practical departments are well filled; Montezuma's Note Book and the Dramatic Fulleton are as sparkling as ever, and in all respects the number is fully up to the high standard of this admirable magazine. Price 35 cents; 84 cents for two years. Send for your copy to Montague Marks, Publisher, 23 Union Square, N. Y.

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